COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT (AOT-LA)
OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT
BACKGROUND

What is Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)?

- Assisted Outpatient Treatment, also known as Laura’s Law, was initiated following the 2001 killing of Laura Wilcox by an individual suffering from severe mental illness.

- Former Assemblywoman Helen Thomson authored Assembly Bill 1421 establishing the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Demonstration Project Act of 2002, known as Laura’s Law.
OVERVIEW

• Allows LAC DMH to serve seriously mentally ill persons at substantial risk of deterioration and/or detention under WIC5150 as a direct result from poor psychiatric treatment compliance.

• Currently, LAC DMH operates a voluntary pilot program.
OVERVIEW (CONT.)

- AOT eligible individuals are outreached in an effort to voluntarily engage them in Full Service Partnership (FSP) services.
- If they refuse services, AOT-LA may petition the court to order the individual into psychiatric outpatient treatment, namely FSP.
- AOT-LA Program expands inter-agency collaboration among courts, County Counsel, Public Defender, Patients’ Rights, and local law enforcement.
WHO CAN REFER?

In order to refer someone for AOT-LA services, the referring party must be:

- Co-habitant aged 18 or older
- Close relative-Parent, sibling, spouse, child over age 18
- Director of client’s residential care facility
- Hospital director
- Licensed Mental Health Treatment Provider
- Peace Officer
- Parole Officer
- Probation Officer
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AOT-LA SERVICES

• 18 years of age or older
• Seriously mentally ill
• Unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision
• Have a history of non-compliance with treatment that has either
  • Two or more hospitalizations or incarcerations within the last 36 months; or
  • Within the last 48 months, one or more acts and/or attempts to cause serious
    physical harm to self and/or others
• Is substantially deteriorating
• Likely to result in grave disability or serious harm to self or others without treatment
• Has failed to engage in available treatment
• Benefit from AOT LA which is the least restrictive placement necessary to ensure
  the person’s recovery and stability.
AOT-LA CAPACITY AND SERVICES

- Extensive outreach and engagement for a minimum of 30 days
- Screening and assessment
- Linkage to psychiatric treatment, primarily FSP providers
- May petition for court-ordered psychiatric treatment
- Participation in court hearing and follow-up on court mandate
If you would like to refer someone for AOT-LA Services, please contact:

AOTLAOE@dmh.lacounty.gov

or

(213) 738-2440

LINK TO REFERRAL FORM
Emergency Outreach Bureau
Contact Information

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